TRACKING TWEED.

The Whereabouts of the Fugitive Still Unknown.

HAS HE LEFT THE CITY?

Official Opinions About the Various Clews.

THE MYSTERIOUS DRIVER FOUND.

"I Will Not Admit or Deny Anything."

COUNSEL FOR A COACHMAN.

The mystery surrounding the escape of Tweed still remains as dark as when the news brst became known. and as each day passes the chances of his discovery and subsequent capture grow more remote. There are still any number of theories set up as to the mode in which his flight was carried out, but the police authorities, the Sheriff's people, and all others who have had anything to do with the case have now come to the adoption of the one first pro-Saturday enter his house on Madison avenue but was taken from the jail direct to Central Park, and there changed carriages, being subsequently driven rapidly away, but in what direction there are scarcely enough positive facts at hand to indicate. The conversation held with Hoffman, Tweed's driver, as given elsewhere, and the manner in which his whereabouts was discovered, will be found engularly interesting, and from his remarks in regard to his being able to take Tweed off to a vessel from his own place at Greenwich may possibly indicate the manner of his departure. The story of the Lord Clarendon and the intimacy that has for years existed between the Tweed and Russell families is also an important fact.

THE LORD CLASSINDON. The following facts in regard to Tweed's connection with the Russell family, who are the owners of the Lord Chrenden, the ship on which it was suggested yesterday that he had taken his departure, tend in a singularly strong manner to establish that theory. In fact, it would seem to be certain that this will turn out the right solution of the problem. It appears that some thirty years ago, at the time when William M. Tweed was working at cabinet making, he formed a strong friendship with a fellow workman, named Russell. This friendship was kept up. Tweed frequently visiting the Russell family. The Russells were living at a small town on the Hudson, and there Tweed often used to spend his Sundays,

On one of these occasions Russell said to the "Boss," "I have had a boy born to-day. Tweed, and I have a great mind to call him after you. Anyhow the 'Tweed' shall go into his name for luck."

"Aifred!" replied the "Bosa." "I may be able to do

the bey some kindness some of these fine days; let him come and see me when he grows old enough."

The child was given the name of Tweed. In course of time William M. Tweed gave up cabinet making and became a political leader. Russell senior died and left several sons, the one named Tweed and others. Three of these boys took to the sea, and soon rose in their profession until they became officers. Young Tweed Russell subsequently desiring to command a ship determined to apply to the "Boss" for aid, for he was then almost in the zenith of his power. He accordingly paid a visit to the "Chief" and stated in answer to the brusque questions put to him by Tweed that

HIS NAME WAS RUSSELL,

but that he had also been named Tweed and that, in consequence, he had presumed to ask his opulent namesake for aid, saying -- "I have a chance of buying a ship and want \$12,000." Tweed remembering, perhaps, what he had once said to his ald friend at once drew his check for the amount and handed it to young Russell, who thus became captain and owner of a ship. The venture turned out well, and in course of time other vessels were bought, until the business became quite extended, and Captain Tweed Russell went to England to manage the European business. It is said that Tweed was always interested in the shipping business of the Russells and is so even now. It can thereship still exists between the two families, and Tweed Russell was peculiarly bound by gratitude to the "Boss," and it would be only natural that he should be willing to aid him in any scheme he might desire to carry out. The remainder of the family also would be only too glad to lend their assistance. The fact, too, that all the young Russells are engaged in scafaring life would afford them peculiar means of belping the "Boss" to escape on a vessel of their own or a strange

There are some parties even now who assert unhesilatingly that they know, beyond question, that for the has three weeks a steaming, with her fires banked, has been lying sometimes in the North River and sometimes in the East Elver, ready at a moment's notice to spirit the "Boss" to a ship which was standing off and on at a certain point on the coast. THE MUSTERIOUS STRANGER

indicated by the Hungan bears the strongest recemblance to one of the Russells, not the Twees Russell, but a younger brother. The latter is on his way to Europe. The Lord Clarendon, although she cleared, putward bound, some time ago, these same people assert has been standing off and on along the coast at no great distance from New York, awaiting her special passenger. This is the story told by those who say they have certain information and personal knowledge of the facts.

GEORGE W. HOPPMAN, THE DRIVER Following out the clew obtained as to the possible whereabouts of George W. Hoffman, Tweed's old con-Edential driver, to whom reference was made yesterday in the HERALD, and who undoubtedly drove the Lamb tarriage on Saturday, a Henaud special detective called at No. 745 Sixth avenue about half-past nine yesterday morning. It had been said that Hoffman had, for some time past, been carrying on the business of an oyster dealer at this address. An address card had been also obtained, which was as follows:-

GEORGE W HOFFMAN, Producer of Old Red Rock, Tweed Island and Indian Harbor OYSTERS, OYSTERS,
Rocky Neck, Greenwich, Conn.
New York Depot, No. 745 Syxth avenue,
WILLIAM E. HURD, Salesn

The fact that the name was found to be George W. Hoffman, and not simply George, as stated previously tiret threw a doubt at to whether this would be bond the right man, but subsequent inquiries proved beyond question that he is the one sought and no other. There was no sign over the door, or anything to indicate that George had a business place Inquiry, however, was made in the express office on the first floor, where it was learned from the clerk that Hoffman did rent the basement and carried on the business of an oyster dealer, and that he had, he believed, a pilice also at Rocky Neck, Greenwich This information tallied exactly so far with that obtained from the several backmen and others who know Hoffman and said that for the last eighteen months or so Hoffman had been in the oyster business at Greenwich, and was probably there until lately. The express clerk said that Hoffman had gone away to Greenwich, and might not be back for three days or three weeks. He loft New York, he anid, on Monday night. He knew nothing Hoffman's agent. Finding that the clerk was either disinclined or unable to give any more information to detective concludes to wait around the neighborhood for the return of the scent himself, who was out at this time. Stepping out on the sidewalk, he noticed a boy standing on the corner of Forty-second street, and determined to question him. Accosting him, he began questioning the boy, and found that he had struck a good claim.

THE ROT'S STORT The conversation had with the lad is given and will J.

York ?!

'No, I don't."

"Well, where do you live?" "I am't got no place at all. I don't live anywheres."

"Did you ever see Hoffman driving a carriage ?" "I don't knowr but I know he was Boss Tweed's eachman. He's the man that received the big present from the Boss. He gave him \$1,000 for his

New Year's." "Now, tell me where you live?"

"I don't live anywheres." "What's your name then ?"

"I ain't got any." "What do they call you?"

"I don't know."

"Well, now, I want to buy some oysters, can't you tell me where I can find Hoffman ?" "If you want to buy systers you had better see Roff-

man yourself; I couldn't sell them to you," "Now, Sonny, I tell you what I'll do with you. 1'll give you a dollar if you'l show me where Hoffman

"I aint going to do it, you might arrest me."

"Oh, no; there's no fear of that." "Well, I aint going to risk it."

This ended the conversation, but it clearly proves that George W. Hoffman is the same man who used to drive Tweed, and who answers in every description to the man who took away and brought back the Lamb carriage. The result of the effort to trace Hoffman eing made known at the HERALD office, a reporter was thereupon started immediately for Greenwich, Conn. HOPPMAN FOUND.

It was not generally believed yesterday that George W. Hoffman had left the city, that is, if he had driven the Tweed landau. But the HERALD detective, who had so carefully watched his movements from Sunday morning forward, now jost track of him, and, therefore, natorally believed that, despite the assertions of his friends, Mr. Hoffman had left the city by the early train yesterday morning. The detective followed him to Greenwich, Conn., and saw him when he stepped on to the stoop of Smith's hotel or restaurant, opposite the depot at that place. It was no use to accest him then; but later in the day, as will be hereinafter shown, his identity with the black mustached driver was pretty fairly established.

GEORGE W. HOPPMAN was, without doubt, the driver of the Tweed carriage, around whom such a web of mystery has been woven. His description furnished in these columns tallies exactly with the man's personal characteristics. He is about five feet seven inches and a quarter high, lean and somewhat sallow, with a black mustache and too well attired to be mistaken for an ordinary back driver. He is quick and lithe, respectable in appearance, and altogether unlike one who has been forced to handle the lines and whip for a living. Perhaps his age does not exceed thirty-three years. At all events, he is just such a man as was photographed verbally by the special detective of the New York Herald. But to resume the history of his pursuit

HR WAS SEEN and spoken with in the evening and after a great deal of trouble by the writer, who had been despatched on his trail. It was a task by no means triding to reach him, but although for a tew moments he was lost, he was found at length in his own house, very unexpectedly to him, and fairly treed. This is how it came about:-Hoffman went into Smith's after he had arranged at the telegraph office for the transmission of a certain despatch from New York and the settlement with the loungers and persons about the depot that inquirers were to be assured that he had not been out of Greenwich for two or three days. Home he arrived in the evening and a report was carefully circulated to the effect that he had gone to Stamford. Everybody in a village of Greenwich's proportions cannot be bribed or "fixed." so that the HERALD detective had no difficulty in ascertaining about six o'clock that George W. Hoffman had not gone to Stamford but was actually then at the supper table in his own house. Half an hour later, in an epen country wagen, the detective drove up to George's gate and alighted.

in one of the windows of the notable old structure a mile or two across the placed waters of the cove and around the small shanty and bar for the accommodauon of Hoffman's cystermen on the point near the steamboat dock. A few rods from his house three or four men lounged. All was still except the pattering rain and nothing could have been more uninviting than the appearance of

THE HOPPMAN HOUSE.

The visitor opened the wicket in the white picket fence, and mounting the roughly hewn steps in the rocky slope reached the plazza and rapped at the door. There was a shuffle of feet within, and a moment go two later the door opened a foot or two, and a man thrust his head out. He wore a black mustache, was about the middle height, and hore a sallow complexion. The remainder may be better told in dialogue.

"Are you Mr. George W. Hoffman ?" said the visitor. "I am," unhesitatingly replied the man in the door-

"Will you step outside a moment ?"

"I have a few words to say to you."

Here Hoffman turned on his heel and whispered something to a female, who held a light in her hand behind him. Then, facing the visitor anew and stepping out on the piazza, he said, "Now, see here, there's no use in questioning me, I am not going to answer questions." Then, checking himself suddenly and scanning the muffled stranger from head to foot, he continued, "But who are you, and what do you want ?"

"I am one who knows you, knows all your transactions and movements during the last three days, and saw you leave New York this morning."

"Well, I don't care what you know. You can't get me to admit or deny anything." "Hold hard there, Mr. Hoffman. How do you know

that I want you to admit or deny anything, or what subject even I want to speak about ?" A pause of a few seconds followed, which was broken

by Mr. Hoffman's saying :- "You haven't told me who you are. " "I have, indirectly, I admit. If you want to know more explicitly I don't know that I can have any good reasen to grant your request. At all events, what I have come after is to ask you squarely what you did on

Saturday. Now, what did you do ?" "Oh, many things " "Yes, but I know you drove your old master. Tweed, comewhere in a landau or carriage. Didn't you?" "See here, now. Acting under the advice of my coun-

sel I will answer just this-I do not deny or admit nothing."

"Oh, you have counsel! What for?"

"I'm not going to say." "Yes, but you won't say that you were in New York until this morning? We know that quite well. You

cannot deny that ?" "No: I have a right to go where I please. But, see here; its no good your questioning me. I wont, tell

"About what, George ?" "About this Tweed business. Pshaw! I know what you're after. But look here," said Hoffman, growing excited, "I don't care who knows that I drove for the Boss often before, and I hope to do so again, and that I would put my hand on my hip for him. Yes, I would, by God, and die for him or in his simple to night. What if I did drive him? No one could touch me for it. If they could I don't care. I tell you what it is-the Boss has placed in my hands and trusted me at one time with \$2,000,000 worth of property as convertible as greenbacks. He knew me then. I am the same now."

"Certainly you are, and were I you I, too, should have driven him away from his jailers on Saturday the same as you did, Georga." "I believe you."

"That's right, Goorge. I'm glad to see you admit it no

Never mind, George; I have cigars myself.

"Well, I guess I'll take a pipe of tobacco," said Hoffman, moving to the door and calling for his pipe.

"Who have you there?" said somebody inside.
"Oh! the HERMALD reporter, I think," said Hoffman. "What's the matter ?" was the next question.

"Nothing. He must be crazy."

Then coming back without the pipe or tobacco, after a few seconds of whispered conversation, Hoffman said:—"Come down to the shore and take a drink. See here, now, you won't get anything outof me. I have speken to you more freely than I would speak or have spoken to any one, because, so far as I am concerned, I don't care, for I'll do my level best now, as ever, for the Boss. But I haven't given him away. I tell you, there are fellows in New York, like Garvey and Ingeroll, who have handled good money through Mr. Tweed, that will be sorry for the cowardly and treacherous courses they have pursued toward him in the past. Never mind. I'm proud of what I've done, and I would

do all and more than has been attributed to me again and again, that's all. I'm saying nothing. Let's go." Hoffman and his visitor then left the house, and going down the knoll steps, crossed the muddy ditch and entered the little clapboard shanty used as a bar by Hoffman's oyster men. It may be proper to mention right here that for some time past Hoffman has been in the oyster trade, and referring to this fact, the HERALD reporter said:

"By the way, George! you have a good oyster bushness on Sixth avenue, in New York!" "Well, old fellow! Isn't that a good blind? Ha!

"Yes, so it is. But I thought it was genuine.

"Hold on. Don't mistake. There's nothing out of the way about that. But see there," said he, as the writer and he approached the beach. "There's the old place across the cove. Do you see it—the Americus Club? And let me tell you, if we had the Boss here tonight it would take the whole National Guard of the State of New York to get him from us."

"How are you Mr. Hoffman ?" said an oysterman appreaching from the house at this moment. "I see you have got back from the city. We didn't expect you." "No," replied Mr. Hoffman, sententloasty; butturning immediately to the reporter be remarked, "Let's go

While both stood on the threshold of the barroom Hoffman's property it was said—that person paused, and turning to the quiet waters stretching out before him, said, "I could have run the Boss off at at any time from this point in one of my sloops. What's to prevent it ?2

"Nonsense, man! Are there no persons about here who would betray him ?" "None. I tell you a vessel laying off this place

could have been fixed and boarded on any night and no one could stop him." After taking the glass of ale proffered the visitor jumped into his open wagon, and, while shaking hands with Hoffman, said, "Good night, George; your'e a brick, and I congratulate you on having been William

M. Tweed's last coachman!" "Well, that's all right, old fellow. I'll be glad to see

you always. Good night." ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS CARRIAGE. A HERALD reporter yesterday secured a story from two ladies who claimed to know something of the manner of the escape of Tweed, which, if true (and the ladies are of the highest respectability and have given their names, which are withheld), contradicts the tale of Warden Dunham and his deputy, Hagan. These ladies, two days prior to the escape of the colossal Ring thief, hired apartments in a house situated on Fifty-sixth street, near Lexington avenue, about midway in the block. Right before their residence, and continuing through to Fifty-ninth been built on-about the dimensions of Union square. Across this space is to be view clear through to Tweed's house in Fiftypinth street. At half-past five on the afternoon of the escape, these ladies happened to be looking out of the front windows, and, as they related to the reporter, casually observed a closed carriage standing in The house, a large whitewashed frame building, stand-ing on a knoll, overlooked Indian Cove and faced in a Tweed's. In a few minutes their attention was again northwesterly direction the once famous buildings drawn to the carriage by the fact of the known as the Americus Club House. A light glimmered | coachman, attired in dark livery, mounting the

drawn to the carriage by the fact of the coachman, attred in dark livery, mounting the box in bot haste, and, leating half forward, commencing to start the team—two black or very dark horses, with the most frantic efforts to force them to great speed. The blinds of the coach were down closely, but one of the windows was open to admit air. The coachman continued to lash his steeds with considerable fury, and so rapidly did they dash down the street that the attention of passers by was drawn particularly to the speed of the vehicle. The ladies at first supposed that it was a runaway, but upon learning of the escape of Tweed and ascerianing from the newspapers that his residence was directly opposite their own, on Fitty-ninth street, they became convinced that the coach contained no other but the redoubtable ex chief of Tammany, who had escaped either with or without the knowledge of his custodians. Upon the return of the husband of one of the ladies the singular incident was recounted to him, and he, of course, understanding all the circumstances of the escape, coincided in their view—that Tweed himself was the occupant of the carriage.

The above seems particularly plausible when it is taken into consideration that Warden Dunham stated that it was near seven o'clock when the alarm was given, and that it was but a few minutes before that time when Tweed left his company tog up stairs to see Mrs. Tweed. This is a serious contradiction to the Warden's version of the scape.

About the city and that there was the end of the Board of Aldermen discussed the chances of Tweed's escape with much interest, and the general sentiment of the prominent ones was that they hoped he was out of the way, and that there was the end of the disgusting litigation. Several declared that they would not give the Boss away if they knew where he was for all the rewards offered, and they would be faid to hear that he was at peace beyond the possibility of pursuit. One only seemed to dissent from this view, and blurted out, "Well, I'd strike of Tweed's old political friends that would give them a scent in the eager bunt that they and their associates are making under the direction of Superinsendens Bangs. Much speculation is induged in as to the object of Andy Garvey's visit to Shoriff Connor's office yesterday, when it is well known that they are not on the best of terms. He was closeted in the Sheriff's private office for some time and left at twenty minutes after twelve, by the private door. It is surmised that Garvey was there to suggest the search of certain houses in the city where the malefactor may be hiding until his lawyers compromise by partial restitution and he can step out and appear in his old haunts.

"The SHREIP'S OFFICE.

"Absolutely nothing new is known to day in regard to Tweed's whereabouts," was Sheriff Conner's reply to all seekers after information in his office yesterday, of course every one in and about the office had a "theory." The most important item of news made public was the suspension of Warden Dunham and the placing of Deputy Warden William Watson is his place. This action was taken by the Sheriff early in the day, but the fact was not guerally known until late in the Artenoch.

Mr. Conner broked quite III and complained that the

Conner looked quite III and complained that the Mr. Conner looked quite III and complained that the loss of sleep and appetite consequent upon the excitement attending the scoape of Tweed was using him up pretty fast. During the day he received a number of anonymous letters of the most abusive character, and these were not altogether calculated to improve his peace of mind or sweeten his temper to any material degree. Ex-Police Commissioner Manierre called in the afternoon and spent an hour or two-in riendly converse with the Sheriff. Mr. Manierre seemed to feel quite confident that the sacaped crimmal will be recaptured, but says the capture will never be effected by the police, of whose ability he does not seem to have a very exalted opinion. He inclines to the opinion that Tweed has not left the State, but did not give reasons for so thinking. Sheriff Conner, too, inclines to this theory.

give reasons for so thinking. Sheriff Conner, too, inclines to this theory.

Warden Dunham was before the Grand Jury yesterov. He remained but a short time, and it is supposed that he merely related the story of the drive and the escape, with all of which the public are already familiar.

There was nothing new elboided in Brooklyn yesterday touching the efforts of the police of that only to effect the arrest of ex-State Schmior Weillam M. Tweed.
There were all kinds of rumors afford Lowever, hear-

There were all kinds of rumors affect, however, bearing upon the subject, but inquiry of the Superintendent of Fonce failed to clot anything, either silbringing of pagalively. Mrs. Campbed ce failed to ellet anything either | cost negatively Mr. Campbell

be found peculiarly interesting. The collequy was as follows:—
"My boy, do you knew a lir. Hoffman anywhere around here?"
"Yes, I do He's got a store down under the express office, in the middle of the block."
"Well, what's his business?"
"He is a dealer in Old Red Rock, Tweed Island and Indian Harbor cysters."
"Is he at home now, and where does he live?"
"I don't think he lives in the "ity. I heard him taiking with a gentleman who said something to him, and I heard Hoffman say to him he was going to Green-wich. Conn."
"Well, don't you know where he stops in New York?"

The man had fallen into the trap set for him.

"No, I den't admit it," replied Hoffman, with a laught it," replied Hoffman, with a laught it," replied Hoffman, with a laught it would not say whether any reliance was to be placed upon the story of the boy who is said to have seen Mr. Tweed get into a carriage on Furnan street, at half-past seven o'clock on the topic, referring all inquisitive scribes to Sheriff Conner as the one who of all others was most interested in obtaining information upon that story of the boy who is said to have seen Mr. Tweed get into a carriage on Furnan street, at half-past seven o'clock on the topic, referring all inquisitive scribes to Sheriff Conner as the one who of all others was most interested in obtaining information upon that subject. One story oursel."

Hoffman nodded a couple of times and then the History ourselves, but that they had failed to be bonored by him he was really under the protection of the friendly roof tree said to be bonored by him portly presence. Certainly the indications are that if there are good and sufficient grounds upon that say whether any reliance of the boy of an old friend of his in Henry street, and that the domicile was under the survey street, and that the domicile was really under the protection of the friendly roof tree said to be bonored by him portly presence. Certainly the indications are that if there are good and sufficient grounds upon that say adviced in the topic, refe

MOVEMENTS OF TWEED'S SECRETARY.

The Herald says the surmises of the New York press as to the movements of Mr. Dewey, Secretary of Willas to the movements of at. bear, Secretary of which aim M. Tweed, have no foundation in fact except that he left New York at ten A. M. Saturday and arrived here at five P. M. and registered at the hotel where he usually stops when here. His business here is personal and in o way connected with Tweed's escape, nor did he know of it until Sunday morning through the press.

THE ESCAPED COUNTERFEITERS.

The Loughery brothers, John and Thomas, who were so successful in breaking out of the Raymond Street Jail, Brooklyn, on last Monday morning, the day on which they were convicted of manufacturing five cent counterfeit nickel pieces, have not yet been captured. No reward has been offered for them by the United States Marshal. Joseph C. Loughery, a cousin of the fugitives; William Ryer and Michael Rice, who were arrested on suspicion of being implicated in aiding the escape of the prisoners, were examined before United States Commissioner Winglow yesterday and discharged, there being no evidence upon which to de-tain them.

MUNICIPAL REFORM.

MR. JOHN WILLIAMSON'S ONSLAUGHT ON ALL THE BEADS OF CITY DEPARTMENTS.

A meeting of the Municipal Reform Association was held last evening at No. 43 Washington square, South, to hear an address by Colonel John D. Williamson, one of the engineers of the Board of Public Works, on the Unnecessary and Illegal Expenditure of Public Moneya." The chair was occupied by Mr. Abraham Earle, Deputy Comptroller of New York. After the reading of minor reports, the Secretary, Mr. J. W. Wood, offered the following resolutions, which were accepted and referred to committees:-

accepted and referred to committees:

Besolved. That the Executive Committee are hereby instructed to prepare a suitable memorial to be presented to the Legislature arging the importance of speedy legislature on the following subjects:—First, the passage of an act amending the Election law, whereby in place of pasting sample ballots on the canvassers' returns, and destroying the remainder, it shall be the duty of the inspectors or canvassers after the result of the canvass of each ballots on the canvas been publicly seclared, and the second search of the canvas of each ballots on the second search of the canvas of each ballots on the second search of the canvas of each ballots of the canvas of each ballots of the canvas of the part of the ballots cast, and to direct the envelope shall be deposited by the chairman of the board of inspectors or canvassers within twenty-four hours after the closing of the polls, with the officer appointed by law to receive and file the same.

Second—The passage of an act reorganizing the civil justice.

Second—The passage of an act repeating the civil just the "Gray Nuns' bill."

Third—The passage of an act reorganizing the civil justices' courts, reducing the expenses of conducting the same, and reducing the legal costs of actions brought therein, and regulating the duties of the stemographers attached to said courts, and repealing all acts whereby they are authorized to charge a fee for transcribing their shorthand notes for the use of the courts, or to the parties to actions brought therein.

Fourth—The repeal of the Eight Hour law.

Fourth—The repeal of the Eight Hour law.

Mr. Williamson was then introduced and spoke substantially as follows:—As a taxpayer! have looked at our Dock Department and been astonished at its immense outlay of money. Where has the money gone to? I studied that. I found that the man who has always failed in everything he ever attempted to do was placed at the head of that department. It seems that every head of every department is filled by men perfectly incompetent to fill the position. In the Street Department manholes are removed that will last ten years, and others put in that will not last five years. As to sewers, we see that every third or fourth pipe put in should be condemned. In fact, the laboring men put sewers, we see that every third or fourth pipe put in should be condemned. In fact, the laboring men put in inferior materials. Last summer, at the reservoir, I saw water wasted in one hear which would supply the city for two days. Look at the big pipes in the lower part of the city. Each Assembly district member has the rule and control of them. Two years ago they commenced charging fifty cents per load for earth to fill in Tompkinssquare. I venture to say that every shovelful cost \$4\$. On repaying streets we find that in a few years we will have to repaye our principal streets and the debris will have to be given away. The speaker regretted that he had been so busily employed recently that he had not had time to prepare his remarks in proper form, but would put them in shape and present them at a future meeting. He then continued in a rambling manner, without stating positively any important facts. At the conclusion of the address the meeting adjourned.

REFORMING THE POLICE. TROUBLE AHEAD FOR INCOMPETENT CAPTAINS

AND SERGEANTS-POLITICAL INFLUENCE USE-At a meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners

yesterday resolutions were unanimously adopted looking to a general overhauling and reformation of the police force. General Smith, chairman of the Committee on Rules and Discipline, opened the attack by reporting from his committee, with its approval, the plan he submitted at a recent session for cutting off political influence by an order that if an applicant for appointment or promotion or an applicant for appointment or promotion or any officer under charges should procure outside inter-ference on his behalf his application should be at once denied or he dismissed from the force. It is believed the operation of this rule will have the most salutary effect upon the entire force, and free it from political and personal partisanship, and save the Board a vast amount of time and trouble, and give deserving officers for charge for promotion.

a fair chance for promotion.

Shot No. 2 came from the same battery, Commis Shot No. 2 came from the same battery, commis-missioner Smith offering the following resolution, which will strike terror to the heart of more than one police captain and sergeant who has obtained his rank through the influence of political friends, when, if he had been left to his own resources and ability, would never have succeeded in advancing beyond the position

never have succeeded in advancing beyond the position of patroliman.—

Resolved, That one evening of each week be devoted to the examination of the captains of the police force by the Board of Examiners, and that these examinations be attended by the Board of Police; also the Board of Examiners be directed to cite before them, at such times as they may determine, the sergeants of the force to be examined collectively by precincts.

Commissioner Voorhis offered a resolution for the publication of the new rules, which was adopted.

The resignation of Officer Stapieton, of the Thirty-first precinct, was accepted, and officer James Bloomer, of the same precinct, was transferred to the specual squad for detail duty at Trinty Building. The names of Acting Sergeant James F. Mead, of the Fourteenth precinct, Roundsman W. Delaney, of the Eighteenth precinct, and Fatroliman James Hull, of the Fifth precinct, were stricken from the list of candidates for promotion. Roundsman Metharlan, of the Thirtier precinct, was cited before the Board of Examiners to be examined as to his qualifications as roundsman.

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS.

THE STEPS OF NEW YORK FROM BEING A SMALL

TOWN TO HER PRESENT PROUD POSITION, Before the Historical Society, last evening, John Austin Stephens read a paper on "The Progress Made in New York in the Century from 1776 to 1876.11 The chair was occupied by Mr. Beekman. After the transaction of the routine business of the society the author of the paper was introduced. He prefaced his interesting narrative by a reference to the condition of the province and city of New York before the war of the Before the occupation of the city by the British, who aw that it was the best point to select

province and city of New York before the war of the Revolution.

Before the occupation of the city by the British, who saw that it was the best point to select as their depot for arms and supplies, merchants and business men did a very fair business. The moment the army came here the merchants were supplanted by hucksters and sutlers, the buildings became tenantiess, and trade disarranged. Then came, in quick succession, two disastrous fires, in one of which 465 buildings were burned, and in the other, which occurred in 1778, forty-three houses were consumed. The lecturer traced the boundary line of the city in 1776, described the social habits of the people, cittle life, the commerce then existing, the public parks and buildings, churches, &c. On Broadway, below St. Paul's church, were the residences of the aristocracy of a hundred years ago, and No. I was the Kennedy Mansion. At Vesey street a signboard pointed the way to Albany. On the present sit of the Hexald Building another signboard bore the legend—### "This way for Boston." The lecturer's descriptions of the Fly Market at the foot of Maiden lane, the flirtations between the British officers and the belies who promenaded in front of Trinty church cemetery, the founding of the first churches, the performances at the Theatre Boyal, established in 1704, on whose boards Major Andre first made his reputation as an actor; the early life in the clubs, which were mainly in the interest of good living, and the coffee houses and their putrons were very interesting. At the Merchants' Coffee House, opened in 1707 by Cornelius Bradford, on the site of the Journal of Commerce building, the leading business men were to be seen, and there Bradford originated the system of marine reports so popular in the country. Mr. Staphens proceeded to frevew the country of three early days in comparison with those of to-day, as illustrations of the remarkable progress made in a century. The paper had little in it that is not already known to he student of the early for the residenc

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS-THE CENTENNIAL MATCHES OF 1876.

The Board of Directors of the National Rifle Associa tion held its regular monthly meeting yesterday after noon in the Bennett Building. General Alexander Shaler presided. The other gentlemen present were Generals T. S. Dakin and M. T. McMahon, Colonels H. A. Gildersleeve and J. T. Camp, Captain J. G. Story, Judge N. T. Stanton and E. H. Sanford.

The report of the Executive Committee was laid over till the next meeting. Captain Story, chief statistical ofthit he next meeting. Captain Story, chief statistical officer during the fall meeting, read his report. Over 1,600
marksmen competed for prizes, a gain of nearly fitty per
cent over last year. Colonel Gidersleeve offered his
resignation as secretary of the association, but after
considerable discussion consented to withdraw it for
one month, at the end of which time a secretary can be
elected for the year 1876.

The following letter was read from Mr. H. C. Poppenhusen, Fresident of the Central Railroad of Long
Island:—

hissen. President of the Central Railroad of Long Island:

New York, Dec. 7, 1875.

To the Board of Directors, N. R. A.—

Gentralishes—I will lease to you for a term of five years, at an annual rental of \$100, may portion of my property lying west and south of your storehouse and north of your northerly line. I will also give you the property, at the cate of \$400 per acre. I shall aise before next spring, find in opposition to your plans, plant on the avenue leading to the range entrance from the depot, four rows of trees, and lay out a walk ten feet wide the entire length of the avenue. Yours very respectfully.

General Shaler made a report on behalf of the committee that recently visited Philadelphia to confer with the President of the Centennial Commission. General Hawley assured the committee that he world do all in his power to render the matches successful. The grounds for a range have not been selected yet.

INVITATION TO ALL RIPLEMEN.

The following was read and laid ever for one mouth, when a programme of matches will be arranged and the riflemen of all countries having rifle associations or clubs be invited to participate:—

clubs be invited to participate

the riflemen of all countries having rifle associations or clubs be invited to participate:

By authority of the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association of America, we have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of resolutions, passed at their last meeting, and we contailly invite your attention to the same. It is the desire of our association that your country shall be represented in the matches contemplated in honor of the Centennial Exhibition, and be conducted under the suspices of the Centennial Exhibition, and be conducted under the suspices of the Centennial Commission. The principal match will be for the Centennial Commission. The principal match will be for the Centennial Commission. The principal match will be for the Centennial Commission of the Centennial Commission. The principal match will be for the Centennial Commission of the Centennial Centennial Commission of the Centennial Cente

TONKERS RIFLE ASSOCIATION. A match will be shot at Morsemere, near Yonkers, on Friday, December 10, beginning at twelve o'clock M ... between teams of eight from the Scottish-American Rifle Club of New York and the Yonkers Rifle Associa-tion. Conditions:—Two hundred and five hundred yards; ten shots at each range; weapon, any rifle; sporting rifles handicapped seven points.

THE BOWEN LIBEL SUIT.

A BELIC OF THE GREAT SCANDAL. In the heat of the Beecher-Tilton scandal

controversy, the Brooklyn Eagle published several interviews with Mr. Henry C. Bowen and also editorial comments which were not complimentary to that gentleman. Mr. Bower determined upon being vindicated, and accordingly consulted counsel upon the best method of procedure. It was determined that suits should be in stituted against the offending journal, and that paper and its editor-in-chief, Mr. Thomas Kinselia, and one of its reporters, Mr. James McDermott were made defendants.

of its reporters, Mr. James McDermott were made defendants.

The suits brought were three in number, and the aggregate amount claimed is \$250,000 damages. The basis of the several complaints upon which money damages are demanded, includes the publication of an alleged pretended interview touching his connection with Plymouth church and Mr. Beecher, and several editorial articles of an alleged libellous nature. One of these articles accused Mr. Bowen of originating a plot to dig up the buried treasure of Captain Ridd. The first causes alluded to above were the the earliest set down on the calender of the Brooklyn City Court, Judge Reynolds, presiding, for trial

A POSTVONEMENT ASKED FOR.

Yesterday forenoon Corporation Counsel W. C. Dewitt, who represents the defendants, argued before that Court when the case was called up for trial that he had supposed that the case would not come up during the December term of the Court for the reason that their main witness is Theodore Tilton, who is now lecturing in a remote part of the country and could not be present. It was well known that their answer, he said, was that of justification of the several articles. In the absence, then, of their chief witness (Tilton) as a matter of law they had a right to a postponement. He asked that the case be postponed till the first Monday in January. The absence of Mr. Beach, the senior counsel, was also a good reason tor putting off the triatill that time. Ex. Judge Fullerton, who appeared for the plaintiff, freluctantly after some argument, consented to a postponement. He said, however, that "there is another case in which Mr. Tilton's absence could not be an obstacle to proceeding. They charge Mr. Bowen with being the instigator of the Captain could not be an obstacle to preceeding. They charge Mr. Bowen with being the instigator of the Captain Ridd treasure frauds. Surely they must be ready to go on with that case. But perhaps they want Captain Ridd as a witness for the defence." (Laughter.) Mr. Fullerton asked that the trial of that case be set down

for a week from that day.

Mr. De Witt said that they could not be ready so early, as they had devoted so much of their time to the other sults at issue.

Judge Reynolds thought they ought to be ready to proceed with the Kidd suits. as they had no reasonable grounds for an excuse.

Mr. De Witt said that would be a long case, to which ex-Judge Fullerton retorted, "If they are going to prove that Mr. Bowen had anything to do with Captain kidd and his treasure it will take them a long time, Your Honor."

The case was set down for trial on December 14. SUICIDE OF A GERMAN WOMAN.

Yesterday Coroner Simms, of Brooklyn, was notified to hold an inquest on the body of Margaret Sheri, forty-seven years of age, who died from the effects of a dose of Paris green. Deceased, who was a native of Germany, was the wife of Philip S. Sheri, proprietor of a lager beer saloon, No. 97 Court street. They were married about three years ago, she being a widow and he a widower. Both have grown children. They lived in quiet, humble circumstances, from all that can be learned, on the second floor of the brick tenement house No. 277 Atlantic street. The people who live on the first floor represent that the couple did not appear to live happily, as loud words were heard between them at different times. On Monday deceased told a neighbor that she did not feel happy, and that afternoon she went up the street to the lager beer saloon and handed to her stopson, who was there at the moment, a package of jewelry, telling him that she was going away somewhere. She drank a glass of beer and went home, at four o'clock one of her stepsons went into the room and found her lying unconscious on the bed. He told his sister-in-law, who lives upstairs and they procured a physician, who administered antidotes to the woman. She died at ten o'clock the same night. Mrs. Shori had a son, a private in the United States Army, who was recently severely woundedly the Indians on the Plains. A letter addressed to his mother was received at the house yesterday morning. a lager beer saloon, No. 97 Court street. They were

se yesterday morning. COLUMBIA COLLEGE ALUMNI.

The second social meeting of the Association of the Alumni of Columbia College, for 1875-6 will be held at Deimonico's, Fourteenth street and Fifth avenue, to morrow, at eight P. M. All graduates are invited. Dr. J. W. S. Arnold will speak on 'Paste and Digestion,' and he will be followed at ten P. M. by an illustration

DELTA KAPPA EPSILON. The New York Alumni Association of the above named large college fraternity will celebrate the thirty-first anniversary of its organization by a reunion and dinner at the St. Nicholas Hotel on Thursday evening. Mr. James W. Husted, of the Yale Chapter, will proside.

INTER-COLLEGIATE ASSOCIATION.

The third annual meeting of the Inter-Collegiate Literary Association will be held at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, January 5, 1876, at half-past ten A. M. Fach college is invited to send three delegates, two of whom, it is pre-ferable, should be of the junior class.

SCHOOL EXHIBITION.

The opening exercises of the Christmas exhibition in primary School No. 9, at First street, near Second aveprimary Sciona avo-ne, will take place under the management of the Prin-cipal, Kate A. Rogers, on Friday of this week, at eleven A. M. It will present a fine selection of songs, recita-tions, readings and addresses, and conclude with presentation of prizes.

DEATH FROM LOCKJAW.

An inquest was held at Verplancks, Westchester county, yesterday by Coroner Bassett, touching the death of Catherine Owens, aged thirty-three, which ocemred on the preceding day. Decoaged, it appeared, accidentally struck her right hand against the teeth of a handsaw last Friday, causing a slight puncture of the skin, the injury being apparently so triling that little notice was taken of it at the time. Indiammation subsequently set in and afterward tetanus, which pro-death before the arrival of a physician, who had called to attend the patient. verdict in accordant with the above facts was rendered.

AN OLD SAILOR KILLED.

THE CAPTAIN OF THE SCHOONER SILAS BRAIN-ERD SHOT DEAD BY THE STEWARD-PATAL SEQUEL TO AN ENCOUNTER WITH RIVER THIEVES.

Captain Leonard Bueil, of the schooner Silas Brainerd, lying in the Wallabout Basin, Brooklyn, was shot and almost instantly killed yesterday afternoon in the cabin of his vessel by the steward, Charles Peterson. The circumstances which led to the shooting are somewhat sensational, the killing of the Captain being the sequel to a struggle with a party of desperate river thieves. The vessel sailed on last Friday morning from Portland Conn., with a cargo of brownstone, a portion of which was consigned to a firm on the Harlem River, at 106th

The schooner, with the Captain and a crew of four men, reached Harlem on Friday night and was anchored near the dock at the stone yard. About two o'clock on Saturday morning the vessel was boarded by a gang of ave river thieves, who came alongside in a small boat. These piratical personages, after hunting about the deck for plunder, descended to the cabin, where the crew were sleeping in their berths. While the thieves were prowling about the cabin they awakened Charles were prowling about the cabin they awakened Charles
Peterson, the steward, who raised an alarm. One of
the marauders pointed a pistol at his head, threatening
to shoot him if nedid not keep quiet. At this juncture,
as two of the thieves were endeavoring to effect an entrance into the room of the Captain, that efficer
threw open the door, levelled a shotgun at them and
fired. The intruders ran on deck, leaped into their boat
and rowed rapidly away. A few blood spots on the
deck led Captain Buell to think that his shot had
been effective. The weapon was loaded with buckshot,
a large number of which were buried in the walls of
the cabin.

THE TRAGEBY IN BROOKLYM.

been effective. The weapon was loaded with buckshot, a large number of which were buried in the walls of the cabin.

That portlon of the cargo consigned to the Harlem firm was unloaded on Saturday and in the evening of that day the schooner was towed over to the Wallahour Basin for the purpose of leaving the remainder of the cargo at the stone yard of Christmas & Co., near the Naval Hospital. At one o'clock yesterday afternoon the work of unloading the stone was begun. An hour later Captain Buell was in the cabin conversing with a friend, Joseph Fittell, of No. 85 Skillman street. While the Captain was telling Mr. Fittell of the fight with the river thieves at Harlem, Charles Peterson, the steward, entered the cabin. Captain Buell asked him to narrate what he remembered on the subject. Peterson went to his berth and took from under the pillow a small seven-barrelled "Ty-coon" revolver. He then told the story of the struggle at Harlem, illustrating the occurrence by flourishing the revolver about to show the manner of the thief what threatened him. After polning the weapon at the berth in which he lay when attacked by the river thief, Peterson was about to place the revolver in his pocket, when it was discharged. The bulles entered Captain Buell's mouth and lodged in his head. He put his hand to his cheest, and said, "Oh, Charley," and then staggered back and fell into the arms of Mr. Fittell, the blood gushing from his mouth. Peterson, when he saw what had happened, sprang forward, and cried, "Oh, Captain, I haven't shot you, have I?" As soon as he saw the blood flowing from Captain Buell's mouth he ran for a physician. The crew, who were attracted to the cabin by the explosion of the revolver, carried the wounded Captain on deck. Peterson soon returned with Dr. Stafford, of Canton street, but medical assistance was unavailing, and

The wounder should be a wait the action of Coroner Simms, who was notified to hold as inquest. Joseph Fittell, who witnessed the shooting, accompanied him there as a witness. Captai

panied him there as a witness. Captain Buell was one of the best known and most popular sailors on the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound, having sailed on these waters for nearly forty years. He resided at Haddam, Conn, where he leaves a widow and three children. He was sixty-one years of age. Peterson had been in his employ for four months, and their relations, according to the testimony of the crew of the vessel and others, were of an amicable character. The prisoner is nineteen years of age, and a native of Denmark. He appeared greatly agitated over the terrible accident, and expressed in broken English his deep sorrow for the shocking occurrence. According to his statement, the Captain, after the affray at Harlem, instructed him to keep his revolver loaded, and gave him money to purchase cartridges. The body of Captain Buell was taken to the Morgue. His relatives in Connecticut were notified by Captain Crafts, of the Fourth precinct police.

THE STORY OF A SKELETON.

SUPPOSED MURDER COMES TO LIGHT-RE-MARKABLE DISAPPEARANCE OF A GERMAN FOUR YEARS AGO SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISCOVERY.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 7, 1875. The people of Morris county in this State are much agitated over the discovery of the skeleton of a man at Mount Freedom. The general impression conveyed is that the remains are those of a German named "Charlie," who used to work for W. J. Bunn at that place about April, 1871. Some time thereabouts "Charlie" mysteriously disappeared, and no tidings of his whereabouts, dead or alive, have come to light until the discovery of this skeleton. Mr. James Dawson, a neighbor of Mr. Bunn, had his suspicions aroused in regard to the disappearance of Charlie at the time, and ewing to the contra ance of Charlie at the time, and wang to Charlie at dictory stories told by Bunn in regard to Charlie the suspicions were intensified. The finding of the skull led to a close search, under the surveillance of Squire Pierson, and some pieces of clothing were found which, it is believed, belonged to the missing man. Mr. Dawson made the following affidavit in regard to the

it is believed, belonged to the missing man. Mr. Dawson made the following affidavit in regard to the matter:

"Ilive near Dover, Morris county; I lived in the township of Mendham four years ago; was acquanted with a German by the name of Charlie; for about five weeks he was at my house often; he was at work for William Bunn for about five weeks; I last saw Charlie Monday night about seven o'clock, either the last of March of the ist of April, 1871; I have not seen him since; next morning I made inquiry for him of Bunn, and he said Charlie had gone to his uncle's; Charlie told me repeatedly that he had no relations in this country; I thought Charlie had been murdered; I fold Bunn that I believed he had murdered Charlie; Bunn said he would make me sweat for it, and that he would produce him at a trial between Buan and a W. H. Stilles; he did not produce him at that trial; he never did anything to me for the assertion; things looked very suspicious at Bunn's the Tuesday morning Charlie was missing; Charlie had promised to work for me for that day; when I saw Charlie last he had a large roil of money, which he showed me; I have looked for Charlie repeatedly at Bunn's place and in other places, but could not find him; the clothing found with the remains of the skeleton is the same as Charlie had on the last time I saw him; my wife called my attention to the pants that Bunn had on some two or three months after Charlie was missing, and they were the same pants that Charlie had on the last time I saw him; from all the circumstances I believe still that Bunn murdered Charlie for what money Charlie had; I heard Charlie say that Bunn said he saw Charlie go out of a window in the second story in his shirt, without any clothing on, in the middle of the night."

Bunn has not yet been arrested. He is frequently in Morristown. He courts an investigation. The difficulty seems to be to identify the remains as those of the missing German and to prove that he came to his end by foul means. The mystery is deeply shrouded, and it

BRIDGET O'HARA'S DEATH.

Some very contradictory testimony was given in as nquest before Coroner Woltman, yesterday, on the body of Bridget O'Hara, who died in St. Francis' Hospital on the 2d inst. The testimony of Deputy Coroner Dr. Cushman and Dr. N. G. McMaster, of the hospital, showed that death resulted from meningitis and pys

showed that death resulted from meningitis and pysemia, caused by a wound about two inches in length on the head, over the frontal bone; but the evidence as to he cause of the wound was so conflicting that the jury could not agree how it was received.

Mary O'Hara, eight years old, a daughter of deceased, testified:—One Wednesday, about three o'clerk P. M., my father struck my mother on the head with a large window shade roller; she was lying on a soft sick at the time; he then went out and my mother began to bleed; the day previous my mother was drunk.

Dr. George Thompson, of No. 601 East Fifteenth street, testified:—I was called to see Mrs. O'Hara, at No. 218 avenue A, on the evening of November 24, by her husband; I found her suffering from general debuity and showing evidences of intemperance and starvation; there was nothing said about a wound on the head and I saw none.

Margaret Hart, of No. 513 East Thirteenth street, deposed:—Am half sister of deceased; on Wednesday in Thursday, of election week, she told me she had been struck on the head by her husband with a window shade roller; I saw a cut on her head; deceased and her husband were both addicted to drink and they quarreiled.

Catharine McMahon, a nurse in St. Francis' Hospital,

Catharine McMahon, a nurse in St. Francis' Hospital, testified:—Deceased was admitted to the hospital on November 25, I saw a cut on her head; I asked her how she received the wound, and she replied that once when she was cutting wood a piece struck her on

once when she was cutting wood a piece struck her opthe head.

Michael O'Hara gave the following evidence:—I am
the husband of the deceased; she got the cut on her
head, on the evening of November 3, by failing against
the staple of the cellar door; I did not strike her; I was
at work on the day before Thanksgiving; we have been
married eleven years, and my wife has been a habitual
drunkard for eight or nine years.

The jury rendered the following verdict:—'That deceased came to her death by meningitis and pysemia,
the result of a wound on the head received, in a manner
unknown to us, at No. 218 avenue A."

CHEAP FOR ARSON.

John Geracker, of West New York, a prisoner in the Union Hill Jail, was fined \$5 yesterday by Recorder Morgan, of Union Hill, for making two almost success-fur attempts to pure said tal to the ground.